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(71) Applicant: INCYTE PHARMACEUTICALS, INC. [US/US];
3174 Porter Drive, Palo Alto, CA 94304 (US).

(72) **Inventors:** COLEMAN, Roger; 260 Mariposa No. 2, Mountain View, CA 94041 (US). AU-YOUNG, Janice; 1419 Kains Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94702 (US). STUART, Susan, G.; 1256 Birch Street, Montara, CA 94037 (US).

(74) Agent: GLAISTER, Debra, J.; Incyte Pharmaceuticals, Inc.,
3174 Porter Drive, Palo Alto, CA 94304 (US).

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(54) Title: A NOVEL HUMAN PURINERGIC P_{2U} RECEPTOR

(57) Abstract

The present invention provides nucleotide and amino acid sequences that identify and encode a novel purinergic P2U receptor (PNR) expressed in human placenta. The present invention also provides for antisense molecules to the nucleotide sequences which encode PNR, expression vectors for the production of purified PNR, antibodies capable of binding specifically to PNR, hybridization probes or oligonucleotides for the detection of PNR-encoding nucleotide sequences, genetically engineered host cells for the expression of PNR, and diagnostic tests based on PNR-encoding nucleic acid molecules or antibodies produced against the polypeptide PNR.

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A NOVEL HUMAN PURINERGIC P_{2U} RECEPTOR

TECHNICAL FIELD

The present invention is in the field of molecular biology; more particularly, the present invention describes the nucleic acid and amino acid sequences of a novel human purinergic P_{2U} receptor.

BACKGROUND ART

The purinergic P_{2U} or nucleotide receptor is an integral part of the plasmalemma of various mammalian cell types. The P_{2U} receptor is a G-protein coupled surface receptor, and these receptors are associated with cells such as neutrophils, endothelial cells, and fibroblasts in the immune, neural, muscular, pulmonary and vascular systems. P_{2U} receptors stimulate phosphoinositide metabolism and the release of intracellular Ca⁺⁺ in the presence of extracellular nucleotides, particularly UTP or ATP. In macrophages, Mg⁺⁺ inhibits the response of P_{2U} to ATP (Alonso-Torre SR and A Trautmann (1994) J Biol Chem 268:18640-47); and in lung epithelial cells, stimulation of the P_{2U} receptor by nucleotides modulates chloride secretion. P₂ receptors have a very low affinity for adenosine and are not activated by the methylxanthine antagonists, caffeine and theophylline.

The P_{2U} receptor is in the P₂ receptor family for which the following common structural features have been described: 1) seven hydrophobic domains, 2) consensus N-linked glycosylation sequences near the amino terminus, 3) a number of residues common to G-protein coupled receptors (asn⁵¹, asp⁷⁹, cys¹⁰⁶, and cys¹⁸³), and 4) potential phosphorylation sites in the third intracellular and carboxyterminal domains (Parr CE et al (1994) Proc Natl Acad Sci 91:3275-79).

In addition to P_{2U}, there are four other P₂ receptor subtypes. The P_{2X} receptor mediates smooth muscle response following sympathetic nerve stimulation and contains an intrinsic cation channel. The P_{2Y} receptor is found in smooth muscle and vascular tissue where it induces vasodilation in response to nitric oxide. The P_{2Z} receptor is found primarily on mast or other immune cells, and when activated by ATP, it appears to cause cell permeabilization. The P_{2T} receptor, which is only found on platelets, inhibits adenylate cyclase and stimulates the release of intracellular calcium ions. In contrast, P₁ receptors are stimulated by adenosine rather than nucleotides.

The G-protein coupled receptors (T7G) characteristically contain seven hydrophobic domains which span the plasma membrane and form a bundle of antiparallel α helices. These

transmembrane segments are designated by roman numerals and account for many of the structural and functional features of the receptor. In most cases, the bundle of helices forms a binding pocket; however, the binding site for bulky molecules includes the extracellular N-terminal segment or one or more of the three extracellular loops. Binding may also alter the receptor's intracellular configuration (Watson S and Arkinstall S (1994) *The G-Protein Linked Receptor Facts Book*, Academic Press, San Diego CA).

The activated receptor interacts with an intracellular G-protein complex which mediates further intracellular signaling activities such as the production of second messengers such as cyclic AMP (cAMP), phospholipase C, inositol triphosphate, or ion channel proteins. Coupling to G-proteins involves a variable sequence in the C-terminal 10-20 amino acids of the third internal loop between the transmembrane segments V and VI and the intracellular segment immediately C-terminal to transmembrane segment VII. Interaction with Gq also requires the N-terminal 10-20 amino acids of the third internal loop.

Both structural and functional features of T7Gs allow their classification into five categories: β -type, muscarinic-type, neurokinin-type, nonneurokinin-type, and miscellaneous (Bolander FF (1994) *Molecular Endocrinology*, Academic Press, San Diego CA); each of which are discussed below. P_{2U} is a β -type receptor and has structural features shared with β -adrenergic, α -adrenergic, histamine, dopamine, and serotonin receptors. These receptors have a short N-terminus with two conserved N-glycosylation sites, a moderately short third internal loop, and a long C-terminus containing a Ser/Thr-rich region. All adrenergic receptors elevate cAMP or intracellular calcium.

Purinergic receptors of the placenta are likely found on immune or vascular cells and appear to play an important role in signal transduction and other specialized functions of the placenta as briefly described below.

The placenta is a thickened discoid temporary organ that acts as the site of interchange of substances between the maternal and fetal bloodstreams. Such substances include oxygen, nutrients, hormones, excretory products, humoral antibodies (immunoglobulin G, IgG), drugs, viruses, or any other chemical or infectious agent that may be present in the maternal circulation. The placenta consists of a fetal part derived from the chorion, one of the extraembryonic surrounding membranes of the conceptus and of a maternal part (decidua basalis) derived from the region of endometrium that underlies the implantation site. The placenta is thus the only organ composed of cells derived from two individuals. The boundary between maternal and fetal tissues is marked by extracellular products of necrosis referred to as fibrinoid. The anatomy of the human placenta is discussed in detail in Benirschke and Kaufmann, (1992) *Pathology of the Human Placenta*, Springer-Verlag, New York City, pp

542-635.

The late blastocyst consists of an inner cell mass that gives rise to the embryo and an outer, single layer of trophoblast cells that encloses the blastocyst cavity. Following implantation, trophoblasts become highly invasive, erode and attach to the secretory endometrium. This invasive process involves matrix-degrading metalloproteinases (MMPs) and tissue inhibitors of metalloproteinases (TIMPs), adhesion receptors and their extracellular ligands, and the class I human leukocyte antigen-G (HLA-G) molecule. The invasive process is reviewed in Fisher and Damsky (1993 *Semin Cell Biol* 4(3):183-188) and in Graham and Lala (1992 *Biochem Cell Biol* 70:867-874). Trophoblasts give rise to two layers. The inner layer is composed of individual cells, cytotrophoblasts, which have high proliferative potential. The outer layer is composed of syncytial cells, syncytiotrophoblasts, which invade the endometrium and become surrounded by cavernous spaces (lacunae) filled with maternal blood. Finger-like extensions of the cytotrophoblasts grow into these protrusions and act as primary placental villi. The capillaries found in this tissue are a part of the embryonic circulation. Tufted extensions of part of the chorion or chorionic villi are associated with the decidua basalis and develop into the large, elaborately branched outgrowths of the villous chorion. The syncytiotrophoblasts remain until the end of pregnancy, but by the fifth month of gestation, most of the cytotrophoblasts begin to fuse with the syncytiotrophoblast. The few remaining cytotrophoblasts form a discontinuous basal layer.

The chorion or fetal part of the placenta has a chorionic plate at the point where the chorionic villi arise. The finger-like villi extend into the endometrial lacuna which are filled with maternal blood released under pressure from the endometrial spiral arteries. A connective tissue core in which the fetal blood vessels develop is derived from extraembryonic mesenchyme surrounded by syncytiotrophoblast and cytotrophoblast cell layers. During pregnancy, surface area of the villi increases dramatically. The surfaces of the villi are active in the exchange of substances between fetal and maternal circulatory systems. Receptors within the apical microvilli facilitate transport of glucose, amino acids, and IgG from mother to fetus. The mechanism for IgG movement is similar to that of IgA across epithelia. The transport of various materials, particularly nutrients, by the placenta is reviewed in Smith et al (1992 *Ann Rev Nutrition* 12:183-206) and Schneider (1991 *Reprod Fertil Dev* 3:345-353). The placenta is more than a simple conduit for nutrients; it engages in considerable metabolic activity contributing to the quality and quantity of nutrients supplied to the fetus (cf. Hay (1991) *Diabetes* 40S:44-50).

Although the villi express foreign paternal as well as maternal antigens and a maternal immune response would be expected against the fetal "allograft", the fetus is not usually rejected. The type of Fetal factors such as major histocompatibility complex (MHC) I (but not

MHC II) and low antigen density and maternal response (suppressor cells and molecules) all contribute to a complex and unique tolerance. The absence of MHC II may be particularly significant, since MHC II has been implicated in the rejection of organ allografts.

5 The function of the endometrium is to support the implantation and development of the embryo. During each menstrual cycle, the most superficial layer or functionalis, undergoes dramatic changes in preparation for these events. During proliferative phase in the first half of the cycle, rising estrogen levels stimulate the division of epithelial and stromal cells in the functionalis. The uterine lining is ready by the time of ovulation at day 14. During the secretory phase in the second half of the cycle, endometrial cells differentiate in response to
10 rising levels of progesterone. Beginning as early as day 15, glycogen appears in the basal region of the epithelial cells and displaces the nuclei. By day 18, the glycogen is dispersed, the nuclei have returned to a basal portion of the cell, Golgi are prominent apically, and secretion is maximal. Concurrently, the nuclear envelope indents to form a channel system associated with the nucleolus. This system is believed to facilitate a rapid transfer of ribosomal
15 components between the nucleus and the cytoplasm. Uterine secretions contain significant amounts of glucose and specific glycoproteins such as PP14 which may confer immunosuppression in preparation for contact with the "foreign" embryo.

Implantation induces a decidual response that is characterized by pronounced changes in the endometrial stroma. Fibroblast-like cells transform into large, active decidual cells that
20 become an important component of the decidua basalis. Predecidual cells, which appear in the endometrial stroma during the fourth week of every menstrual cycle, form a cuff around small vessels in the stroma. The vessels become more permeable as menstruation or placental development approaches. The predecidual cells appear to limit embryo invasion, play a role in embryo nutrition, and protect fetal tissue from rejection. These cells produce prolactin (and
25 possibly relaxin), secrete prostaglandins, and have receptors for both estrogen and progesterone. The effects of estrogen and progesterone on the endometrium, both during the cycle and following implantation, are complemented and implemented by a variety of growth factors. Insulin-like growth factors (IGFs) have a major role in the stimulation of endometrial cell division. With rising levels of progesterone after ovulation, IGF-binding proteins,
30 including the placental protein PP12 synthesized by the predecidual cells, are secreted. IGF-binding proteins reduce the availability of IGFs and thus play a role in the shift from a proliferative to a secretory endometrium.

The decidua basalis supplies arterial blood to and receives venous blood from the lacunae situated between the villi. Although the maternal blood vessels are open during implantation,
35 the fetal vessels remain intact. Fetal and maternal blood do not mix, except on rare occasions at the end of pregnancy. During this period when the cytotrophoblast is no longer continuous and

the capillaries of the villi are very close to the surface, a very slight exchange of blood may occur. At that time, the walls of the fetal capillaries are separated from the maternal blood only by the syncytiotrophoblast. During pregnancy, cells from the connective tissue stroma of the decidua basalis and a lesser number of cells from the decidua parietalis and decidua capsularis form decidual cells. These large, slightly basophilic cells have many profiles of rough endoplasmic reticulum, long mitochondria, and membrane-limited granules contained in club-shaped projections of the cell surface. Decidual cells are more numerous during the first half of pregnancy, contain a nucleus with a prominent nucleolus, and secrete prolactin which is similar to pituitary prolactin.

At the end of a full-term pregnancy, the placenta has the shape of a thick disk. The umbilical cord usually arises from the center of the placenta and connects the circulation of the fetus with the fetal placental circulation. Fetal venous blood reaches the placenta through the two umbilical arteries which branch and ultimately give rise to the vessels of the chorionic villi. In these villi, the fetal blood receives oxygen, loses its CO₂ and returns to the fetus through the umbilical vein. Although the chorionic villi are submerged in maternal blood, the fetal placental blood is isolated by the structures that form the placental barrier--the endothelium and basal lamina of the fetal capillaries; the mesenchyme in the villus interior; the basal lamina of the trophoblast; the cytotrophoblast, during the first half of pregnancy; and the syncytiotrophoblast.

The placenta is permeable to several substances and normally transfers oxygen, water, electrolytes, carbohydrates, lipids, proteins, vitamins, hormones, antibodies, and some drugs from the maternal to the fetal circulation. Carbon dioxide, water, hormones, and residual products of metabolism are transferred from fetal blood to maternal blood. The complexity of this bidirectional transport reflects the function of the placental layers as the equivalent of three organ systems-- respiratory, gastrointestinal, and urinary.

The pathology of the human placenta and decidua is discussed in Benirschke and Kaufmann, (1992) Pathology of the Human Placenta, Springer-Verlag, New York City pp. 542-635, and in Naeye (1992), Disorders of the Placenta, Fetus, and Neonate: Diagnosis and Clinical Significance, Mosby Year Book, St. Louis MO.

DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION

The subject invention provides a unique nucleotide sequence which encodes a novel human purinergic P_{2U} receptor, designated PNR. Incyte Clone No 179696 was used to identify and clone the full length cDNA, designated pnr, from the placenta cDNA library.

The invention also relates to the use of the polynucleotide and amino acid sequences of PNR to diagnose or treat activated or inflamed cells and/or tissues associated with the

expression of pnr. Aspects of the invention include the antisense DNA of pnr; cloning or expression vectors containing pnr; host cells or organisms transformed with expression vectors containing pnr; and a method for the production and recovery of purified PNR from host cells. Purified protein, PNR, can be used to produce antibodies for diagnosis or therapy or to screen for antagonists or inhibitors for therapy of activated or inflamed cells and/or tissues.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

Figures 1A and 1B show the nucleotide (SEQ ID NO:1) and amino acid (SEQ ID NO:2) sequence alignments of the consensus sequence for 179696, PNR. The primers XLR (278-298) and XLF (587-610) for full length cloning are shown as arrows.

Figure 2 displays the alignment of 179696, PNR with RNU09402; boxed residues are identical. The 179696 residues by which the P_{2U} receptor is defined--asn⁴⁴, asp⁷², cys⁹⁹, and cys¹⁷⁷--are shown (Parr et al, supra).

MODES FOR CARRYING OUT THE INVENTION

As used herein, PNR refers to a purinergic receptor homolog, in either naturally occurring or synthetic form, or active fragments thereof, which have the sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2. In one embodiment, the polypeptide (designated by the upper case, PNR) is encoded by mRNAs transcribed from the cDNA (designated by the lower case, pnr) of SEQ ID NO:1.

"Active" refers to those forms of PNR which retain the biologic and/or immunologic activities of any naturally occurring PNR.

"Naturally occurring PNR" refers to PNRs produced by human cells that have not been genetically engineered and specifically contemplates various PNRs arising from post-translational modifications of the polypeptide including but not limited to acetylation, carboxylation, glycosylation, phosphorylation, lipidation and acylation.

"Derivative" refers to PNRs chemically modified by such techniques as ubiquitination, labeling (e.g., with radionuclides, various enzymes, etc.), pegylation (derivatization with polyethylene glycol), and insertion or substitution by chemical synthesis of amino acids such as ornithine, which do not normally occur in human proteins.

"Recombinant variant" refers to any polypeptide differing from naturally occurring PNRs by amino acid insertions, deletions, and substitutions, created using recombinant DNA techniques. Guidance in determining which amino acid residues may be replaced, added or deleted without abolishing activities of interest, such as normal signal transduction, may be found by comparing the sequence of the particular PNR with that of homologous peptides and minimizing the number of amino acid sequence changes made in highly conserved regions.

Pref rably, amino acid "substitutions" are the result of replacing one amino acid with

another amino acid having similar structural and/or chemical properties, such as the replacement of a leucine with an isoleucine or valin , an aspartat with a glutamate, or a threonine with a serine, ie, conservative replacements. "Insertions" or "deletions" are typically in the range of about 1 to 5 amino acids. The variation allowed may be experimentally
5 determined by producing the peptide synthetically or by systematically making insertions, deletions, or substitutions of nucleotides in a pnr molecule using recombinant DNA techniques and assaying the expressed, recombinant variants for activity.

Where desired, a "signal or leader sequence" can direct the polypeptide through the membrane of a cell. Such a sequence may be naturally present on the polypeptides of the
10 present invention or provided from heterologous sources by recombinant DNA techniques.

A polypeptide "fragment," "portion," or "segment" is a stretch of amino acid residues of at least about 5 amino acids, often at least about 7 amino acids, typically at least about 9 to 13 amino acids, and, in various embodiments, at least about 17 or more amino acids. To be active, any PNR peptide must have sufficient length to display biologic and/or immunologic activity.

15 An "oligonucleotide" or polynucleotide "fragment", "portion","probe" or "segment" is a stretch of nucleotide residues which is long enough to use in polymerase chain reaction (PCR) or various hybridization procedures. Oligonucleotides are prepared based on the cDNA sequence which encodes PNR provided by the present invention and are used to amplify, or simply reveal, related RNA or DNA molecules. Oligonucleotides comprise portions of the DNA sequence having
20 at least about 10 nucleotides and as many as about 35 nucleotides, preferably about 25 nucleotides. Nucleic acid probes comprise portions of pnr sequence having fewer nucleotides than about 6 kb, preferably fewer than about 1 kb. After appropriate testing to eliminate false positives, both oligonucleotides and nucleic acid probes may be used to determine whether mRNAs encoding PNR are present in a cell or tissue or to isolate similar natural nucleic acid
25 sequences from chromosomal DNA as described by Walsh PS et al (1992, PCR Methods Appl 1:241-50).

Probes may be derived from naturally occurring or recombinant single- or double-stranded nucleic acids or be chemically synthesized. They may be labeled by nick translation, Klenow fill-in reaction, PCR or other methods well known in the art. Probes of the
30 present invention, their preparation and/or labeling are elaborated in Sambrook J et al (1989) Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, Cold Spring Harbor NY; or Ausubel FM et al (1989) Current Protocols in Molecular Biology, John Wiley & Sons, New York City, both incorporated herein by reference.

35 Recombinant variants encoding T7Gs may be synthesized or selected by making use of the "redundancy" in the genetic code. Various codon substitutions, such as the silent changes which produce specific restriction sites, may be introduced to optimize cloning into a plasmid or viral

vector or to increase expression in a particular prokaryotic or eukaryotic system. Codon usage-specific mutations may also be introduced or chimeras containing the domains of related peptides added to test or modify the properties of any part of the polypeptide, particularly to change ligand-binding affinities, interchain affinities, or degradation/turnover rate.

5 The present invention provides a unique nucleotide sequence identifying a novel homolog of the human purinergic receptor which was first identified in a human placenta cDNA library. The sequence for pnr is shown in SEQ ID NO:1 and is homologous to the GenBank sequence, RNU09402 (Rice et al, supra). Because P_{2U} is specifically expressed in cells active in immunity, the nucleic acid (pnr), polypeptide (PNR) and antibodies to PNR are useful in
10 investigations of and interventions in the normal and abnormal physiologic and pathologic processes which are associated with the placenta's role in immunity. Therefore, an assay for upregulated expression of PNR can accelerate diagnosis and proper treatment of conditions caused by abnormal signal transduction due to systemic and local infections, traumatic and other tissue damage, hereditary or environmental diseases associated with hypertension, carcinomas,
15 cystic fibrosis, and other physiologic or pathologic problems.

The nucleotide sequence encoding PNR (or its complement) has numerous other applications in techniques known to those skilled in the art of molecular biology. These techniques include use as hybridization probes for Southern or northern analysis, use as oligomers for PCR, use for chromosomal and gene mapping, use in the recombinant production
20 of PNR, use in generation of antisense DNA or RNA, their chemical analogs and the like, and use in production of chimeric molecules for selecting agonists, inhibitors or antagonists for design of domain-specific therapeutic molecules. Uses of the nucleotides encoding PNR disclosed herein are exemplary of known techniques and are not intended to limit their use in any technique known to a person of ordinary skill in the art. Furthermore, the nucleotide sequences
25 disclosed herein may be used in molecular biology techniques that have not yet been developed, provided the new techniques rely on properties of nucleotide sequences that are currently known, eg, the triplet genetic code, specific base pair interactions, etc.

It will be appreciated by those skilled in the art that as a result of the degeneracy of the genetic code, a multitude of PNR-encoding nucleotide sequences, some bearing minimal
30 homology to the nucleotide sequence of any known and naturally occurring gene may be produced. The invention has specifically contemplated each and every possible variation of nucleotide sequence that could be made by selecting combinations based on possible codon choices. These combinations are made in accordance with the standard triplet genetic code as applied to the nucleotide sequence of naturally occurring PNR, and all such variations are to be considered as
35 being specifically disclosed.

Although nucleotide sequences which encode PNR and its variants are preferably capable of hybridizing to the nucleotide sequence of the naturally occurring PNR gene under stringent conditions, it may be advantageous to produce nucleotide sequences encoding PNR or its derivatives possessing a substantially different codon usage. Codons can be selected to increase the rate at which expression of the peptide occurs in a particular prokaryotic or eukaryotic expression host in accordance with the frequency with which particular codons are utilized by the host. Other reasons for substantially altering the nucleotide sequence encoding PNR and its derivatives without altering the encoded amino acid sequence include the production of RNA transcripts having more desirable properties, such as a greater half-life, than transcripts produced from the naturally occurring sequence.

The nucleotide sequence encoding PNR may be joined to a variety of other nucleotide sequences by means of well established recombinant DNA techniques (cf Sambrook J et al, supra). Useful nucleotide sequences for joining to pnr include an assortment of cloning vectors--plasmids, cosmids, lambda phage derivatives, phagemids, and the like--that are well known in the art and may be chosen for such characteristics as the size insert they can accommodate, their utility, their fidelity, etc. Other vectors of interest include expression vectors, replication vectors, probe generation vectors, sequencing vectors, YAC and BAC mapping vectors, and the like. In general, these vectors may contain an origin of replication functional in at least one organism, convenient restriction endonuclease sensitive sites, and selectable markers for the host cell.

Another aspect of the subject invention is to provide for pnr-specific nucleic acid hybridization probes capable of hybridizing with naturally occurring nucleotide sequences encoding PNR. Such probes may also be used for the detection of PNR-encoding sequences and should preferably contain at least 50% of the nucleotides from any particular domain of interest from this pnr encoding sequence. The hybridization probes of the subject invention may be derived from the nucleotide sequence of the SEQ ID NO:1 or from genomic sequence including promoter, enhancer elements and introns of the respective naturally occurring pnr. Hybridization probes may be labeled by a variety of reporter groups, including radionuclides such as ^{32}P or ^{35}S , or enzymatic labels such as alkaline phosphatase coupled to the probe via avidin/biotin coupling systems, and the like.

PCR, as described in US Patent Nos. 4,683,195 and 4,965,188 provides additional uses for oligonucleotides based upon the nucleotide sequences which encode PNR. Such probes used in PCR may be of recombinant origin, may be chemically synthesized, or may be a mixture of both and comprise a discrete nucleotide sequence for diagnostic use or a degenerate pool of possible sequences for identification of closely related P2U or related T7G sequences.

Full length genes may be cloned from known sequence using a new method as disclosed in

Patent Application Serial No 08/487,112, filed June 7, 1995 and hereby incorporated by reference which employs XL-PCR (Perkin-Elmer, Foster City, CA) to amplify long pieces of DNA. This method was developed to allow a single researcher to process multiple genes (up to 20 or more) at a time and to obtain an extended (possibly full-length) sequence within 6-10 days. It replaces current methods which use labelled probes to screen libraries and which allow one researcher to process only about 3-5 genes in 14-40 days.

In the first step, which can be performed in about two days, primers are designed and synthesized based on a known partial sequence. In step 2, which takes about six to eight hours, the sequence is extended by PCR amplification of a selected library. Steps 3 and 4, which take about one day, are purification of the amplified cDNA and its ligation into an appropriate vector. Step 5, which takes about one day, involves transforming and growing up host bacteria. In step 6, which takes approximately five hours, PCR is used to screen bacterial clones for extended sequence. The final steps, which take about one day, involve the preparation and sequencing of selected clones. If the full length cDNA has not been obtained, the entire procedure is repeated using either the original library or some other preferred library. The preferred library may be one that has been size-selected to include only larger cDNAs or may consist of single or combined commercially available libraries, eg. lung, liver, heart and brain from Gibco/BRL (Gaithersburg MD). The cDNA library may have been prepared with oligo d(T) or random primers. The advantage of using random primed libraries is that they will have more sequences which contain 5' ends of genes. A randomly primed library may be particularly useful if an oligo d(T) library does not yield a complete gene. Obviously, the larger the protein, the less likely it is that the complete gene will be found in a single plasmid.

Other means for producing hybridization probes for closely related sequences include the cloning of nucleic acid sequences encoding PNR or its derivatives into vectors for the production of mRNA probes. Such vectors are known in the art and are commercially available and may be used to synthesize RNA probes in vitro by means of the addition of the appropriate RNA polymerase as T7 or SP6 RNA polymerase and the appropriate labeled nucleotides.

It is now possible to produce a DNA sequence, or portions thereof, encoding PNR and/or its derivatives entirely by synthetic chemistry. Such molecules can be inserted into any of the many available vectors using reagents and methods that are known in the art at the time of the filing of this application. Moreover, synthetic chemistry may be used to introduce mutations into the pnr sequences or any portion thereof.

The nucleotide sequence can be used to develop an assay to detect activation, inflammation, or disease associated with abnormal levels of PNR expression. The nucleotide sequence can be labeled by methods known in the art and added to a fluid or tissue sample from a patient. After an incubation period sufficient to effect hybridization, the sample is washed with

a compatible fluid which contains a visible marker, a dye or other appropriate molecule(s), if the nucleotide has been labeled with an enzyme. After the compatible fluid is rinsed off, the dye is quantitated and compared with a standard. If the amount of dye is significantly elevated (or lowered, as the case may be), the nucleotide sequence has hybridized with the sample, and the assay indicates an abnormal condition such as inflammation or disease.

The nucleotide sequence for pnr can be used to construct hybridization probes for mapping the gene. The nucleotide sequence provided herein may be mapped to a chromosome and specific regions of a chromosome using well known genetic and/or chromosomal mapping techniques. These techniques include in situ hybridization, linkage analysis against known chromosomal markers, hybridization screening with libraries or flow-sorted chromosomal preparations specific to known chromosomes, and the like. The technique of fluorescent in situ hybridization of chromosome spreads has been described, among other places, in Verma et al (1988) Human Chromosomes: A Manual of Basic Techniques, Pergamon Press, New York City.

Fluorescent in situ hybridization of chromosomal preparations and other physical chromosome mapping techniques may be correlated with additional genetic map data. Examples of genetic map data can be found in the 1994 Genome Issue of Science (265:1981f). Correlation between the location of pnr on a physical chromosomal map and a specific disease (or predisposition to a specific disease) can help delimit the region of DNA associated with that genetic disease. The nucleotide sequence of the subject invention may be used to detect differences in gene sequence between normal and carrier or affected individuals.

The nucleotide sequence encoding PNR may be used to produce purified PNR using well known methods of recombinant DNA technology. Among the many publications that teach methods for the expression of genes after they have been isolated is Goeddel (1990) Gene Expression Technology, Methods and Enzymology, Vol 185, Academic Press, San Diego CA. PNR may be expressed in a variety of host cells, either prokaryotic or eukaryotic. Host cells may be from the same species in which pnr nucleotide sequences are endogenous or from a different species. Advantages of producing PNR by recombinant DNA technology include obtaining adequate amounts of the protein for purification and the availability of simplified purification procedures.

Cells transformed with DNA encoding PNR may be cultured under conditions suitable for the expression of PNR and recovery of the protein from the cell culture. PNR produced by a recombinant cell may be secreted or may be contained intracellularly depending on the particular genetic construction used. In general, it is more convenient to prepare recombinant proteins in secreted form. Purification steps vary with the production process and the particular protein produced.

Various methods for the isolation of PNR polypeptide may be accomplished by procedures

well known in the art. For example, such a polypeptide may be purified by immunoaffinity chromatography by employing the antibodies provided by the present invention. Various other methods of protein purification well known in the art include those described in Deutscher M (1990) *Methods in Enzymology*, Vol 182, Academic Press, San Diego CA; and in Scopes R (1982) *Protein Purification: Principles and Practice*, Springer-Verlag, New York City, both incorporated herein by reference.

In addition to recombinant production, fragments of PNR may be produced by direct peptide synthesis using solid-phase techniques (cf Stewart et al (1969) *Solid-Phase Peptide Synthesis*, WH Freeman Co, San Francisco CA; Merrifield J (1963) *J Am Chem Soc* 85:2149-2154). In vitro protein synthesis may be performed using manual techniques or by automation. Automated synthesis may be achieved, for example, using Applied Biosystems 431A Peptide Synthesizer (ABI, Foster City, California) in accordance with the instructions provided by the manufacturer. Various fragments of PNR may be chemically synthesized separately and combined using chemical methods to produce the full length molecule.

PNR for antibody induction does not require biological activity; however, the protein must be antigenic. Peptides used to induce specific antibodies may have an amino acid sequence consisting of at least five amino acids, preferably at least 10 amino acids. They should mimic a structural portion of the amino acid sequence of the protein and may contain the entire amino acid sequence of a single domain of PNR. Short stretches of PNR amino acids may be fused with those of another protein such as keyhole limpet hemocyanin, and antibody produced against the fusion protein.

Antibodies specific for PNR may be produced by inoculation of an appropriate animal with the polypeptide or an antigenic fragment. An antibody is specific for PNR if it is produced against an epitope of the polypeptide and binds to at least part of the natural or recombinant protein. Antibody production includes not only the stimulation of an immune response by injection into animals, but also analogous steps in the production of synthetic antibodies or other specific-binding molecules such as the screening of recombinant immunoglobulin libraries (cf Orlandi R et al (1989) *PNAS* 86:3833-37, or Huse WD et al (1989) *Science* 256:1275-81) or the in vitro stimulation of lymphocyte populations. Current technology (Winter G and Milstein C (1991) *Nature* 349:293-99) provides for a number of highly specific binding reagents based on the principles of antibody formation. These techniques may be adapted to produce molecules specifically binding particular domains of PNR.

An additional embodiment of the subject invention is the use of PNR specific antibodies or the like as bioactive agents to treat abnormal signal transduction associated with systemic and local infections, traumatic and other tissue damage, hereditary or environmental diseases associated with hypertension, carcinomas, cystic fibrosis, and other physiologic or pathologic

problems.

Bioactive compositions comprising agonists, antagonists, or inhibitors of PNR may be administered in a suitable therapeutic dose determined by any of several methodologies including clinical studies on mammalian species to determine maximum tolerable dose and on normal human subjects to determine safe dosage. Additionally, the bioactive agent may be complexed with a variety of well established compounds or compositions which enhance stability or pharmacological properties such as half-life. It is contemplated that a therapeutic, bioactive composition is delivered by intravenous infusion into the bloodstream or any other effective means which could be used for treatment.

The examples below are provided to describe the subject invention. These examples are provided by way of illustration and are not included for the purpose of limiting the invention.

INDUSTRIAL APPLICABILITY

I Isolation of mRNA and Construction of the cDNA Library

Placental tissue was obtained from a term pregnancy (40 weeks gestation) of a male neonate delivered by Caesarean section. The tissue was flash frozen, ground in a mortar and pestle, and lysed immediately in buffer containing guanidinium isothiocyanate. Lysis was followed by several phenol chloroform extractions and ethanol precipitation. Poly A⁺ RNA was isolated using biotinylated oligo d(T) primer and streptavidin coupled to a paramagnetic particle (Promega Corp, Madison WI) and sent to Stratagene (La Jolla CA). Stratagene prepared the cDNA library using oligo d(T) priming. Synthetic adapter oligonucleotides were ligated onto the cDNA molecules enabling them to be inserted into the Uni-ZAP™ vector system (Stratagene).

The quality of the cDNA library was screened using DNA probes, and then, the pBluescript® phagemid (Stratagene) was excised. Subsequently, the custom-constructed library phage particles were infected into *E. coli* host strain XL1-Blue® (Stratagene). Alternative unidirectional vectors might include, but are not limited to, pcDNA1 (Invitrogen, San Diego CA) and pSHlox-1 (Novagen, Madison WI).

II Isolation of cDNA Clones

The phagemid forms of individual cDNA clones were obtained by the in vivo excision process, in which the host bacterial strain was co-infected with both the library phage and an f1 helper phage. Polypeptides or enzymes derived from both the library-containing phage and the helper phage nicked the DNA, initiated new DNA synthesis from defined sequences on the target DNA, and created a smaller, single stranded circular phagemid DNA molecule that included all DNA sequences of the pBluescript phagemid and the cDNA insert. The phagemid DNA was released from the cells and purified and used to reinfect fresh host cells (SOLR, Stratagene) where double-stranded phagemid DNA was produced.

A alternative phagemid purification procedure uses the QIAWELL-8 Plasmid Purification System from the QIAGEN® DNA Purification System (QIAGEN Inc, Chatsworth CA). This product provides a convenient, rapid and reliable high-throughput method for lysing the bacterial cells and isolating highly purified phagemid DNA using QIAGEN anion-exchange resin particles. The DNA was eluted from the purification resin and prepared for DNA sequencing and other analytical manipulations.

III Sequencing of cDNA Clones

The cDNA inserts from random isolates of the placenta library were sequenced in part. Methods for DNA sequencing are well known in the art. Conventional enzymatic methods employed DNA polymerase Klenow fragment, SEQUENASE® (US Biochemical Corp, Cleveland OH) or Taq polymerase to extend DNA chains from an oligonucleotide primer annealed to the DNA template of interest. Methods have been developed for the use of both single- and double-stranded templates. The chain termination reaction products were electrophoresed on urea-acrylamide gels and detected either by autoradiography (for radionuclide-labeled precursors) or by fluorescence (for fluorescent-labeled precursors). Recent improvements in mechanized reaction preparation, sequencing and analysis using the fluorescent detection method have permitted expansion in the number of sequences that can be determined per day using machines such as the Catalyst 800 and the Applied Biosystems 377 or 373 DNA sequencers.

IV Homology Searching of cDNA Clones and Deduced Proteins

Each sequence so obtained was compared to sequences in GenBank using a search algorithm developed by Applied Biosystems and incorporated into the INHERIT™ 670 Sequence Analysis System. In this algorithm, Pattern Specification Language (developed by TRW Inc., Los Angeles CA) was used to determine regions of homology. The three parameters that determine how the sequence comparisons run were window size, window offset, and error tolerance. Using a combination of these three parameters, the DNA database was searched for sequences containing regions of homology to the query sequence, and the appropriate sequences were scored with an initial value. Subsequently, these homologous regions were examined using dot matrix homology plots to distinguish regions of homology from chance matches. Smith-Waterman alignments were used to display the results of the homology search.

Peptide and protein sequence homologies were ascertained using the INHERIT™ 670 Sequence Analysis System in a way similar to that used in DNA sequence homologies. Pattern Specification Language and parameter windows were used to search protein databases for sequences containing regions of homology which were scored with an initial value. Dot-matrix homology plots were examined to distinguish regions of significant homology from chance

matches.

Alternatively, BLAST, which stands for Basic Local Alignment Search Tool, is used to search for local sequence alignments (Altschul SF (1993) J Mol Evol 36:290-300; Altschul, SF et al (1990) J Mol Biol 215:403-10). BLAST produces alignments of both nucleotide and amino acid sequences to determine sequence similarity. Because of the local nature of the alignments, BLAST is especially useful in determining exact matches or in identifying homologs. Whereas it is ideal for matches which do not contain gaps, it is inappropriate for performing motif-style searching. The fundamental unit of BLAST algorithm output is the High-scoring Segment Pair (HSP).

An HSP consists of two sequence fragments of arbitrary but equal lengths whose alignment is locally maximal and for which the alignment score meets or exceeds a threshold or cutoff score set by the user. The BLAST approach is to look for HSPs between a query sequence and a database sequence, to evaluate the statistical significance of any matches found, and to report only those matches which satisfy the user-selected threshold of significance. The parameter E establishes the statistically significant threshold for reporting database sequence matches. E is interpreted as the upper bound of the expected frequency of chance occurrence of an HSP (or set of HSPs) within the context of the entire database search. Any database sequence whose match satisfies E is reported in the program output.

V Identification, Full Length Cloning, Sequencing and Translation

Analysis of INHERIT™ results from randomly picked and sequenced portions of clones from placenta library identified Incyte 179696 as a homolog of the purinergic receptor RNU09402. The cDNA insert comprising Incyte 179696 was fully sequenced and used as the basis for cloning the full length cDNA.

The cDNA of Incyte 179696 was extended to full length using a modified XL-PCR (Perkin Elmer) procedure as disclosed in Patent Application Serial No 08/487,112, by Guegler et al., filed June 7, 1995 and hereby incorporated by reference. Primers were designed based on known sequence; one primer was synthesized to initiate extension in the antisense direction (XLR) and the other to extend sequence in the sense direction (XLS or XLF). The primers allowed the sequence to be extended "outward" generating amplicons containing new, unknown nucleotide sequence for the genes of interest. The primers were designed using Oligo 4.0 (National Biosciences Inc, Plymouth MN). In general, primers should be 22-30 nucleotides in length, have a GC content of 50% or more, and anneal to the target sequence at temperatures about 68°-72° C. Any stretch of nucleotides which would result in hairpin structures and primer-primer dimerizations were avoided.

The placenta cDNA library was used as a template, and XLR and XLS primers were used

to amplify sequences containing the gene of interest. The enzymes of the XL-PCR kit were found to provide high fidelity in the amplification providing kit instructions were followed. In the extension of P₂U sequence, 25 pMol of each primer and a thoroughly pr mixed nzyme solution were effective in obtaining the extended sequence.

5 Amplification was conducted using the MJ PTC200 (MJ Research, Watertown MA) and the following parameters:

Step 1 94° C for 60 sec (initial denaturation)
Step 2 94° C for 15 sec
Step 3 65° C for 1 min
10 Step 4 68° C for 7 min
Step 5 Repeat step 2-4 for 15 additional times
Step 6 94° C for 15 sec
Step 7 65° C for 1 min
Step 8 68° C for 7 min + 15 sec/cycle
15 Step 9 Repeat step 6-8 for 11 additional times
Step 10 72° C for 8 min
Step 11 4° C (and holding)

At the end of 28 cycles, 50 µl of the reaction mix was removed; and the remaining reaction mix was run for an additional 10 cycles as outlined below:

20 Step 1 94° C for 15 sec
Step 2 65° C for 1 min
Step 3 68° C for (10 min + 15 sec)/cycle
Step 4 Repeat step 1-3 for 9 additional times
Step 5 72° C for 10 min

25 A 5-10 µl aliquot of the reaction mixture was analyzed on a mini-gel to determine successful reactions. Although all extended cDNA species potentially contained the full length gene, some of the largest products were selected and separated from template by electrophoresis on a low concentration (about 0.6-0.8%) agarose gel. The bands representing the gene of interest were cut out of the gel and purified using a method like the QIAQuick™ gel extraction kit
30 (QIAGEN Inc, Chatsworth CA). Klenow enzyme was used to convert eventual overhangs into blunt ends to facilitate religation and cloning of the products.

After ethanol precipitation, the products were redissolved in 13 µl of ligation buffer. Then, 1µl T4-DNA ligase (15 units) and 1µl T4 polynucleotide kinase were added, and the mixture was incubated at room temperature for 2-3 hours or overnight at 16° C. Competent *E.*
35 *coli* cells (in 40 µl of appropriate media) were transformed with 3 µl of ligation mixture and cultured in 80 µl of SOC medium. After incubation for one hour at 37° C, the whole transformation mixture was plated on LB-agar containing 2x carbenicillin. The following day, 12 colonies were randomly picked from each plate and cultured in 150 µl of liquid LB/carbenicillin medium placed in an individual well of an appropriate, commercially-
40 available, steril 96-well microtiter plat . The following day, 5 µl of each overnight culture

was transferred into a non-sterile 96-well plate and after dilution 1:10 with water, 5 µl of each sample was transferred into a PCR array.

For PCR amplification, 15 µl of PCR mix (1.33x concentrated containing 0.75 units of Taq polymerase, a vector primer and one or both of the gene specific primers used for the extension reaction) were added to each well. Amplification was performed using the following conditions:

Step 1	94° C for 60 sec
Step 2	94° C for 20 sec
Step 3	55° C for 30 sec
Step 4	72° C for 90 sec
Step 5	Repeat steps 2-4 for an additional 29 times
Step 6	72° C for 180 sec
Step 7	4° C (and holding)

Aliquots of these PCR reactions were run on agarose gels together with molecular weight markers. The sizes of the PCR products were compared to the original partial cDNAs, and appropriate clones were selected, ligated into plasmid and sequenced.

The cDNA (SEQ ID NO :) and amino acid (SEQ ID NO:2) sequences for human PNR are shown in Fig 1. When the translation of the sequence was searched against protein databases such as SwissProt and PIR, no exact matches were found. Figure 2 shows the comparison of the human PNR sequence with that of the rat purinergic sequence, RNU09402.

VI Antisense analysis

Knowledge of the correct, complete cDNA sequence of pnr enables its use as a tool for antisense technology in the investigation of gene function. Oligonucleotides, cDNA or genomic fragments comprising the antisense strand of pnr are used either *in vitro* or *in vivo* to inhibit expression of the mRNA. Such technology is now well known in the art, and antisense molecules are designed at various locations along the nucleotide sequences. By treatment of cells or whole test animals with such antisense sequences, the gene of interest can be effectively turned off. Frequently, the function of the gene is ascertained by observing behavior at the intracellular, cellular, tissue or organismal level (eg, lethality, loss of differentiated function, changes in morphology, etc.).

In addition to using sequences constructed to interrupt transcription of a particular open reading frame, modifications of gene expression are obtained by designing antisense sequences to intron regions, promoter/enhancer elements, or even to trans-acting regulatory genes. Similarly, inhibition is achieved using Hogeboom base-pairing methodology, also known as "triple helix" base pairing.

VII Expression of PNR

Expression of pnr is accomplished by subcloning the cDNAs into appropriate expression vectors and transfecting the vectors into analogous expression hosts. In this particular case,

the cloning vector previously used for the generation of the cDNA library, pBluescript, also provides for direct expression of pnr sequences in *E. coli*. Upstream of the cloning site, this vector contains a promoter for β -galactosidase, followed by sequence containing the amino-terminal Met and the subsequent 7 residues of β -galactosidase. Immediately following these eight residues is an engineered bacteriophage promoter useful for artificial priming and transcription and a number of unique restriction sites, including Eco RI, for cloning.

Induction of the isolated, transfected bacterial strain with IPTG using standard methods produces a fusion protein corresponding to the first seven residues of β -galactosidase, about 15 residues of "linker", and the peptide encoded within the cDNA. Since cDNA clone inserts are generated by an essentially random process, there is one chance in three that the included cDNA lies in the correct frame for proper translation. If the cDNA is not in the proper reading frame, it is obtained by deletion or insertion of the appropriate number of bases by well known methods including *in vitro* mutagenesis, digestion with exonuclease III or mung bean nuclease, or the inclusion of an oligonucleotide linker of appropriate length.

Alternatively, the pnr cDNA is shuttled into other vectors known to be useful for expression of protein in specific hosts. Oligonucleotide primers containing cloning sites as well as a segment of DNA (about 25 bases) sufficient to hybridize to stretches at both ends of the target cDNA is synthesized chemically by standard methods. These primers are then used to amplify the desired gene segment by PCR. The resulting gene segment is digested with appropriate restriction enzymes under standard conditions and isolated by gel electrophoresis. Alternately, similar gene segments are produced by digestion of the cDNA with appropriate restriction enzymes. Using appropriate primers, segments of coding sequence from more than one gene are ligated together and cloned in appropriate vectors. It is possible to optimize expression by construction of such chimeric sequences.

Suitable expression hosts for such chimeric molecules include, but are not limited to, mammalian cells such as Chinese Hamster Ovary (CHO) and human 293 cells, insect cells such as Sf9 cells, yeast cells such as *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, and bacteria such as *E. coli*. For each of these cell systems, a useful expression vector includes an origin of replication to allow propagation in bacteria and a selectable marker such as the β -lactamase antibiotic resistance gene to allow plasmid selection in bacteria. In addition, the vector includes a second selectable marker such as the neomycin phosphotransferase gene to allow selection in transfected eukaryotic host cells. Vectors for use in eukaryotic expression hosts often require RNA processing elements such as 3' polyadenylation sequences if such are not part of the cDNA of interest.

Additionally, the vector contains promoters or enhancers which increase gene expression. Such promoters are host specific and include MMTV, SV40, and metallothionein

promoters for CHO cells; trp, lac, tac and T7 promoters for bacterial hosts; and alpha factor, alcohol oxidase and PGH promoters for yeast. Transcription enhancers, such as the sarcoma virus enhancer, are used in mammalian host cells. Once homogeneous cultures of recombinant cells are obtained through standard culture methods, large quantities of recombinantly produced PNR are recovered from the conditioned medium and analyzed using chromatographic methods known in the art.

VIII Isolation of Recombinant PNR

PNR is expressed as a chimeric protein with one or more additional polypeptide domains added to facilitate protein purification. Such purification facilitating domains include, but are not limited to, metal chelating peptides such as histidine-tryptophan modules that allow purification on immobilized metals, protein A domains that allow purification on immobilized immunoglobulin, and the domain utilized in the FLAGS extension/affinity purification system (Immunex Corp, Seattle WA). The inclusion of a cleavable linker sequence such as Factor XA or enterokinase (Invitrogen, San Diego CA) between the purification domain and the pnr sequence is useful to facilitate expression of PNR.

IX Testing of P_{2U} Receptors

The procedures for testing purinergic receptors were published by Erb et al (1993, Proc Natl Acad Sci 90:10449-53). The function of PNRs is easily tested in cultured K562 human leukemia cells because these cells lack P_{2U} receptors. K562 cells are transfected with expression vectors containing pnr and loaded with fura- α , fluorescent probe for Ca⁺⁺. Activation of properly assembled and functional P_{2U} receptors with extracellular UTP or ATP mobilizes intracellular Ca⁺⁺ which reacts with fura- α and is measured spectrofluorometrically. In addition these procedures can be used to define the affinity and effective concentration of those extracellular nucleotides which activate such receptors. Likewise, chimeric receptors which combine extracellular receptive sequences of any newly discovered T7G with the transmembrane and intracellular segments of a known molecule such as pnr are useful in defining potential ligands for the new molecule.

Chimeric or modified P_{2U} receptors containing substitutions in the transmembrane or intracellular regions are activated using UTP and the resulting biological activity is assessed. Once function is established, the amino- or carboxy-terminal residues are used in testing antagonists or inhibitors of intracellular Ca⁺⁺ release or phosphoinositide metabolism.

X Production of PNR Specific Antibodies

Two approaches are utilized to raise antibodies to PNR, and each approach is useful for generating either polyclonal or monoclonal antibodies. In one approach, denatured protein from

reverse phase HPLC separation is obtained in quantities up to 75 mg. This denatured protein is used to immunize mice or rabbits using standard protocols; about 100 micrograms are adequate for immunization of a mouse, while up to 1 mg might be used to immunize a rabbit. For identifying mouse hybridomas, the denatured protein is radioiodinated and used to screen potential murine B-cell hybridomas for those which produce antibody. This procedure requires only small quantities of protein, such that 20 mg would be sufficient for labeling and screening of several thousand clones.

In a second approach, the amino acid sequence of an appropriate PNR domain, as deduced from translation of the cDNA, is analyzed to determine regions of high immunogenicity. Oligopeptides comprising appropriate hydrophilic regions, as illustrated in Figure 3, are synthesized and used in suitable immunization protocols to raise antibodies. Analysis to select appropriate epitopes is described by Ausubel FM et al (supra). The optimal amino acid sequences for immunization are usually at the C-terminus, the N-terminus and those intervening, hydrophilic regions of the polypeptide which are likely to be exposed to the external environment when the protein is in its natural conformation.

Typically, selected peptides, about 15 residues in length, are synthesized using an Applied Biosystems Peptide Synthesizer Model 431A using fmoc-chemistry and coupled to keyhole limpet hemocyanin (KLH; Sigma, St Louis MO) by reaction with M-maleimidobenzoyl-N-hydroxysuccinimide ester (MBS; cf. Ausubel FM et al, supra). If necessary, a cysteine is introduced at the N-terminus of the peptide to permit coupling to KLH. Rabbits are immunized with the peptide-KLH complex in complete Freund's adjuvant. The resulting antisera are tested for antipeptide activity by binding the peptide to plastic, blocking with 1% bovine serum albumin, reacting with antisera, washing and reacting with labeled (radioactive or fluorescent), affinity purified, specific goat anti-rabbit IgG.

Hybridomas are prepared and screened using standard techniques. Hybridomas of interest are detected by screening with labeled PNR to identify those fusions producing the monoclonal antibody with the desired specificity. In a typical protocol, wells of plates (FAST; Becton-Dickinson, Palo Alto CA) are coated during incubation with affinity purified, specific rabbit-anti-mouse (or suitable anti-species Ig) antibodies at 10 mg/ml. The coated wells are blocked with 1% BSA, washed and incubated with supernatants from hybridomas. After washing the wells are incubated with labeled PNR at 1 mg/ml. Supernatants with specific antibodies bind more labeled PNR than is detectable in the background. Then clones producing specific antibodies are expanded and subjected to two cycles of cloning at limiting dilution. Cloned hybridomas are injected into pristane-treated mice to produce ascites, and monoclonal antibody is purified from mouse ascitic fluid by affinity chromatography on Protein A. Monoclonal antibodies with affinities of at least 10^8 M⁻¹, preferably 10^9 to 10^{10} or stronger, are

typically produced by standard procedures as described in Harlow and Lane (1988) Antibodies: A Laboratory Manual, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, Cold Spring Harbor, NY; and in Goding (1986) Monoclonal Antibodies: Principles and Practice, Academic Press, New York NY, both incorporated herein by reference.

XI Diagnostic Test Using PNR Specific Antibodies

Particular PNR antibodies are useful for investigating signal transduction and the diagnosis of infectious or hereditary conditions which are characterized by differences in the amount or distribution of PNR or downstream products of an active signaling cascade. Since PNR was found in a human placenta library, it appears to be upregulated in cell types mainly involved in immune protection or defense.

Diagnostic tests for PNR include methods utilizing antibody and a label to detect PNR in human body fluids, membranes, cells, tissues or extracts of such. The polypeptides and antibodies of the present invention are used with or without modification. Frequently, the polypeptides and antibodies are labeled by joining them, either covalently or noncovalently, with a substance which provides for a detectable signal. A wide variety of labels and conjugation techniques are known and have been reported extensively in both the scientific and patent literature. Suitable labels include radionuclides, enzymes, substrates, cofactors, inhibitors, fluorescent agents, chemiluminescent agents, magnetic particles and the like. Patents teaching the use of such labels include US Patent Nos. 3,817,837; 3,850,752; 3,939,350; 3,996,345; 4,277,437; 4,275,149; and 4,366,241. Also, recombinant immunoglobulins are produced as shown in US Patent No. 4,816,567, incorporated herein by reference.

A variety of protocols for measuring soluble or membrane-bound PNR, using either polyclonal or monoclonal antibodies specific for the protein, are known in the art. Examples include enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA), radioimmunoassay (RIA) and fluorescent activated cell sorting (FACS). A two-site monoclonal-based immunoassay utilizing monoclonal antibodies reactive to two non-interfering epitopes on PNR is preferred, but a competitive binding assay can be employed. These assays are described, among other places, in Maddox, DE et al (1983, J Exp Med 158:1211f).

XII Purification of Native PNR Using Specific Antibodies

Native or recombinant PNR is purified by immunoaffinity chromatography using antibodies specific for PNR. In general, an immunoaffinity column is constructed by covalently coupling the anti-PNR antibody to an activated chromatographic resin.

Polyclonal immunoglobulins are prepared from immune sera either by precipitation with ammonium sulfate or by purification on immobilized Protein A (Pharmacia LKB Biotechnology, Piscataway, NJ). Likewise, monoclonal antibodies are prepared from mouse ascites fluid by ammonium sulfate precipitation or chromatography on immobilized Protein A.

Partially purified immunoglobulin is covalently attached to a chromatographic resin such as CnBr-activated Sepharos (Pharmacia, Piscataway NJ). The antibody is coupled to the resin, the resin is blocked, and the derivative resin is washed according to the manufacturer's instructions.

5 Such immunoaffinity columns are utilized in the purification of PNR by preparing a fraction from cells containing PNR in a soluble form. This preparation is derived by solubilization of whole cells or of a subcellular fraction obtained via differential centrifugation (with or without addition of detergent) or by other methods well known in the art. Alternatively, soluble PNR containing a signal sequence is secreted in useful quantity into the
10 medium in which the cells are grown.

 A soluble PNR-containing preparation is passed over the immunoaffinity column, and the column is washed under conditions that allow the preferential absorbance of PNR (eg, high ionic strength buffers in the presence of detergent). Then, the column is eluted under conditions that disrupt antibody/PNR binding (eg, a buffer of pH 2-3 or a high concentration of
15 a chaotrope such as urea or thiocyanate ion), and PNR is collected.

XIII Drug Screening

 This invention is particularly useful for screening therapeutic compounds by using PNR or binding fragments thereof in any of a variety of drug screening techniques. The polypeptide or fragment employed in such a test is either free in solution, affixed to a solid support, borne
20 on a cell surface or located intracellularly. One method of drug screening utilizes eukaryotic or prokaryotic host cells which are stably transformed with recombinant nucleic acids expressing the polypeptide, fragment or chimera as described above. Drugs are screened against such transformed cells in competitive binding assays. Such cells, either in viable or fixed form, are used for standard binding assays. The formation of complexes between PNR and the agent being
25 tested are measured. Alternatively, one examines the diminution in complex formation between PNR and a receptor caused by the agent being tested.

 Thus, the present invention provides methods of screening for drugs or any other agents which affect signal transduction. These methods, well known in the art, comprise contacting such an agent with PNR polypeptide or a fragment thereof and assaying (i) for the presence of a
30 complex between the agent and the PNR polypeptide or fragment, or (ii) for the presence of a complex between the PNR polypeptide or fragment and the cell. In such competitive binding assays, the PNR polypeptide or fragment is typically labeled. After suitable incubation, free PNR polypeptide or fragment is separated from that present in bound form, and the amount of free or uncomplexed label is a measure of the ability of the particular agent to bind to PNR or to
35 interfer with the formation of the PNR and agent complex.

 Another technique for drug screening provides high throughput screening for compounds

having suitable binding affinity to the PNR polypeptides and is described in detail in European Patent Application 84/03564, published on September 13, 1984, incorporated herein by reference. Briefly stated, large numbers of different small peptide test compounds are synthesized on a solid substrate, such as plastic pins or some other surface. The peptide test compounds are reacted with PNR polypeptide and washed. Bound PNR polypeptide is then detected by methods well known in the art. Alternatively, purified PNR is coated directly onto plates for use in the aforementioned drug screening techniques. In addition, non-neutralizing antibodies are used to capture the peptide and immobilize it on the solid support.

This invention also contemplates the use of competitive drug screening assays in which neutralizing antibodies capable of binding PNR specifically compete with a test compound for binding to PNR polypeptides or fragments thereof. In this manner, the antibodies can be used to detect the presence of any peptide which shares one or more antigenic determinants with PNR.

XIV Rational Drug Design

The goal of rational drug design is to produce structural analogs of biologically active polypeptides of interest or of small molecules with which they interact, eg, agonists, antagonists, or inhibitors. Any of these examples can be used to fashion drugs which are more active or stable forms of the polypeptide or which enhance or interfere with the function of a polypeptide *in vivo* (Hodgson J (1991) Bio/Technology 9:19-21, incorporated herein by reference).

In one approach, the three-dimensional structure of a protein of interest, or of a protein-inhibitor complex, is determined by x-ray crystallography, by computer modeling or, most typically, by a combination of the two approaches. Both the shape and charges of the polypeptide must be ascertained to elucidate the structure and to determine active site(s) of the molecule. Less often, useful information regarding the structure of a polypeptide is gained by modeling based on the structure of homologous proteins. In both cases, relevant structural information is used to design efficient inhibitors. Useful examples of rational drug design include molecules which have improved activity or stability as shown by Braxton S and Wells JA (1992, Biochemistry 31:7796- 7801) or which act as inhibitors, agonists, or antagonists of native peptides as shown by Athauda SB et al (1993 J Biochem 113:742-46), incorporated herein by reference.

It is also possible to isolate a target-specific antibody, selected by functional assay, as described above, and then to solve its crystal structure. This approach, in principle, yields a pharmacore upon which subsequent drug design is based. It is possible to bypass protein crystallography altogether by generating anti-idiotypic antibodies (anti-ids) to a functional, pharmacologically active antibody. As a mirror image of a mirror image, the binding site of the anti-ids is expected to be an analog of the original receptor. The anti-id is then used to identify

and isolate peptides from banks of chemically or biologically produced peptides. The isolated peptides then act as the pharmacore.

By virtue of the present invention, sufficient amount of polypeptide are made available to perform such analytical studies as X-ray crystallography. In addition, knowledge of the PNR amino acid sequence provided herein provide guidance to those employing computer modeling techniques in place of or in addition to x-ray crystallography.

XV Identification of Other Members of the Signal Transduction Complex

Purified PNR is a research tool for identification, characterization and purification of interacting G-proteins, phospholipase C, adenylate cyclase, or other signal transduction pathway proteins. Radioactive labels are incorporated into a selected PNR domain by various methods known in the art and used in vitro to capture interacting molecules. A preferred method involves labeling the primary amino groups in PNR with ^{125}I Bolton-Hunter reagent (Bolton, AE and Hunter, WM (1973) Biochem J 133: 529). This reagent has been used to label various molecules without concomitant loss of biological activity (Hebert CA et al (1991) J Biol Chem 266: 18989; McColl S et al (1993) J Immunol 150:4550-4555).

Labeled PNR is useful as a reagent for the purification of molecules with which it interacts. In one embodiment of affinity purification, membrane-bound PNR is covalently coupled to a chromatography column. Cell-free extract derived from putative target cells is passed over the column, and molecules with appropriate affinity bind to PNR. The PNR-complex is recovered from the column, dissociated and the recovered molecule is subjected to N-terminal protein sequencing. This amino acid sequence is then used to identify the captured molecule or to design degenerate oligonucleotide probes for cloning the relevant gene from an appropriate DNA library.

In an alternate method, antibodies are raised against PNR, specifically monoclonal antibodies, as described above. The monoclonal antibodies are screened to identify those which inhibit the binding between ligands and PNR. These monoclonal antibodies are then used therapeutically.

XVI Use and Administration of Antibodies, Inhibitors, or Antagonists

Antibodies, inhibitors, or antagonists of PNR (or other treatments to limit signal transduction, LST), provide different effects when administered therapeutically. LSTs are formulated in a nontoxic, inert, pharmaceutically acceptable aqueous carrier medium preferably at a pH of about 5 to 8, more preferably 6 to 8, although pH varies according to the characteristics of the antibody, inhibitor, or antagonist being formulated and the condition to be treated. Characteristics of LSTs include solubility of the molecule, half-life and antigenicity/immunogenicity; these and other characteristics aid in defining an effective carrier. Native human proteins are preferred as LSTs, but organic or synthetic molecules resulting from drug

screens are equally effective in particular situations.

LSTs are delivered by known routes of administration including but not limited to topical creams and gels; transmucosal spray and aerosol; transdermal patch and bandage; injectable, intravenous and lavage formulations; and orally administered liquids and pills particularly formulated to resist stomach acid and enzymes. The particular formulation, exact dosage, and route of administration is determined by the attending physician and varies according to each specific situation.

Such determinations are made by considering multiple variables such as the condition to be treated, the LST to be administered, and the pharmacokinetic profile of the particular LST. Additional factors which are taken into account include disease state (eg, severity) of the patient, age, weight, gender, diet, time and frequency of administration, drug combination, reaction sensitivities, and tolerance/response to therapy. Long acting LST formulations are administered every 3 to 4 days, every week, or once every two weeks depending on half-life and clearance rate of the particular LST.

Normal dosage amounts vary from 0.1 to 100,000 micrograms, up to a total dose of about 1 g, depending upon the route of administration. Guidance as to particular dosages and methods of delivery is provided in the literature. See US Patent Nos. 4,657,760; 5,206,344; or 5,225,212. Those skilled in the art will employ different formulations for different LSTs. Administration to particular cell types will necessitate different methods of delivery, ie, vascular endothelial cells versus glial cells.

It is contemplated that abnormal signal transduction and the conditions or diseases which trigger such activity precipitate damage that is treatable with LSTs. These conditions or diseases are specifically diagnosed by the tests discussed above, and such testing is performed in suspected cases of systemic and local infections, traumatic and other tissue damage, hereditary or environmental diseases associated with hypertension, carcinomas, cystic fibrosis, and other physiologic or pathologic problems.

All publications and patents mentioned in the above specification are herein incorporated by reference. Various modifications and variations of the described method and system of the invention will be apparent to those skilled in the art without departing from the scope and spirit of the invention. Although the invention has been described in connection with specific preferred embodiments, it should be understood that the invention as claimed should not be unduly limited to such specific embodiments. Indeed, various modifications of the above-described modes for carrying out the invention which are obvious to those skilled in the field of molecular biology or related fields are intended to be within the scope of the following claims.

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SEQUENCE LISTING

(1) GENERAL INFORMATION:

- (i) APPLICANT: INCYTE PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.
- (ii) TITLE OF INVENTION: A Novel Human Purinergic P_{2u} Receptor
- (iii) NUMBER OF SEQUENCES: 2
- (iv) CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS:
 - (A) ADDRESSEE: INCYTE PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.
 - (B) STREET: 3330 Hillview Avenue
 - (C) CITY: Palo Alto
 - (D) STATE: CA
 - (E) COUNTRY: USA
 - (F) ZIP: 94304
- (v) COMPUTER READABLE FORM:
 - (A) MEDIUM TYPE: Floppy disk
 - (B) COMPUTER: IBM PC compatible
 - (C) OPERATING SYSTEM: PC-DOS/MS-DOS
 - (D) SOFTWARE: PatentIn Release #1.0, Version #1.30
- (vi) CURRENT APPLICATION DATA:
 - (A) APPLICATION NUMBER: To Be Assigned
 - (B) FILING DATE: Filed Herewith
- (vii) PRIOR APPLICATION DATA:
 - (A) APPLICATION SERIAL NO: 08/459,046
 - (B) FILING DATE: 2-JUN-1995
- (viii) ATTORNEY/AGENT INFORMATION:
 - (A) NAME: Luther, Barbara J.
 - (B) REGISTRATION NUMBER: 33954
 - (C) REFERENCE/DOCKET NUMBER: PF-0038 PCT
- (ix) TELECOMMUNICATION INFORMATION:
 - (A) TELEPHONE: 415-855-0555
 - (B) TELEFAX: 415-852-0195

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:1:

- (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:
 - (A) LENGTH: 984 base pairs
 - (B) TYPE: nucleic acid
 - (C) STRANDEDNESS: single
 - (D) TOPOLOGY: linear
- (ii) MOLECULE TYPE: cDNA

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(vii) IMMEDIATE SOURCE:

(A) LIBRARY: Placenta

(B) CLONE: 179696

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:1:

ATGGAATGGG ACAATGGCAC AGACCAGGCT CTGGGCTTGC CACCCACCAC CTGTGTCTAC	60
CGCGAGAACT TCAAGCAACT GCTGCTCCCA CCTGTGTATT CGGCGGTGCT GCGGCCTGCC	120
CTCCCGCTGA ACATCTGTGT CATTACCCAG ATCTGCACGT CCCGCCGGGC CCTGACCCGC	180
ACGGCCGTGT ACACCCTAAA CCTTGCTCTG CCTGACCTGC TATATGCCTG CTCCCTGCCC	240
CTGCTCATCT ACAACTATGC CCAAGGTGAT CACTGGCCCT TTGGCGACTT CGCCTGCCGC	300
CTGGTCCGCT TCCTCTTCTA TGCCAACCTG CACGGGAGGA TCCTCTTCCT CACCTGCATC	360
AGCTTCCAGC GCTACCTGGG CATCTGCCAC CCGCTGGCCC CCTGGCACAA ACGTGGGGGC	420
CGCCGGGCTG CCTGGCTAGT GTGTGTAGCC GTGTGGCTGG CCGTGACAAC CCAGTGCCTG	480
CCCACAGCCA TCTTCGCTGC CACAGGCATC CAGCGTAACC GCACTGTCTG TTATGACCTC	540
AGCCCGCCTG CCCTGGCCAC CCACTATATG CCCTATGGGA TGGCTCTCAC TGTCATCGGC	600
TTCCTGCTGC CCTTTGCTGC CCTGCTGGCC TGCTACTGTC TCCTGGCCTG CCGCCTGTGC	660
CGCCAGGATG GCCCGGCAGA GCCTGTGGCC CAGGAGCGGC GTGGCAAGGC GGCCCGCATG	720
GCCGTGGTGG TGGCTGCTGT CTTTGGCATC AGCTTCCTGC CTTTTACAT CACCAAGACA	780
GCCTACCTGG CAGTGCCTC GACGCCGGGC GTCCCCTGCA CTGTATTGGA GGCCTTTGCA	840
GCGGCCTACA AAGGCACGCG GCCGTTTGCC AGTGCCAACA GCGTGCTGGA CCCCATCCTC	900
TTCTACTTCA CCCAGAAGAA GTTCCGCCG CGACCACATG AGCTCCTACA GAAACTCACA	960
GACAAATGGC AGAGGCAGGG TCGC	984

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO:2:

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

(A) LENGTH: 328 amino acids

(B) TYPE: amino acid

(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: protein

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO:2:

Met	Glu	Trp	Asp	Asn	Gly	Thr	Asp	Gln	Ala	Leu	Gly	Leu	Pro	Pro	Thr
1					5				10				15		

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Thr Cys Val Tyr Arg Glu Asn Phe Lys Gln Leu Leu Leu Pro Pro Val
 20 25 30
 Tyr Ser Ala Val Leu Ala Pro Ala Leu Pro Leu Asn Ile Cys Val Ile
 35 40 45
 Thr Gln Ile Cys Thr Ser Arg Arg Ala Leu Thr Arg Thr Ala Val Tyr
 50 55 60
 Thr Leu Asn Leu Ala Leu Pro Asp Leu Leu Tyr Ala Cys Ser Leu Pro
 65 70 75 80
 Leu Leu Ile Tyr Asn Tyr Ala Gln Gly Asp His Trp Pro Phe Gly Asp
 85 90 95
 Phe Ala Cys Arg Leu Val Arg Phe Leu Phe Tyr Ala Asn Leu His Gly
 100 105 110
 Arg Ile Leu Phe Leu Thr Cys Ile Ser Phe Gln Arg Tyr Leu Gly Ile
 115 120 125
 Cys His Pro Leu Ala Pro Trp His Lys Arg Gly Gly Arg Arg Ala Ala
 130 135 140
 Trp Leu Val Cys Val Ala Val Trp Leu Ala Val Thr Thr Gln Cys Leu
 145 150 155 160
 Pro Thr Ala Ile Phe Ala Ala Thr Gly Ile Gln Arg Asn Arg Thr Val
 165 170 175
 Cys Tyr Asp Leu Ser Pro Pro Ala Leu Ala Thr His Tyr Met Pro Tyr
 180 185 190
 Gly Met Ala Leu Thr Val Ile Gly Phe Leu Leu Pro Phe Ala Ala Leu
 195 200 205
 Leu Ala Cys Tyr Cys Leu Leu Ala Cys Arg Leu Cys Arg Gln Asp Gly
 210 215 220
 Pro Ala Glu Pro Val Ala Gln Glu Arg Arg Gly Lys Ala Ala Arg Met
 225 230 235 240
 Ala Val Val Val Ala Ala Val Phe Gly Ile Ser Phe Leu Pro Phe His
 245 250 255
 Ile Thr Lys Thr Ala Tyr Leu Ala Val Arg Ser Thr Pro Gly Val Pro
 260 265 270
 Cys Thr Val Leu Glu Ala Phe Ala Ala Ala Tyr Lys Gly Thr Arg Pro
 275 280 285
 Phe Ala Ser Ala Asn Ser Val Leu Asp Pro Ile Leu Phe Tyr Phe Thr

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290

295

300

Gln Lys Lys Phe Arg Arg Arg Pro His Glu Leu Leu Gln Lys Leu Thr
305 310 315 320

Asp Lys Trp Gln Arg Gln Gly Arg
325

CLAIMS

1. A purified polynucleotide encoding a polypeptide with the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2.

2. The polynucleotide of Claim 1 wherein the nucleic acid sequence comprises SEQ ID NO:1, or its complement.

3. A diagnostic test for conditions or diseases associated with expression of the human purinergic P_{2U} receptor (pnr) in a biological sample comprising the steps of:

a) combining the biological sample with the polynucleotide of Claim 1, or a fragment thereof, under conditions suitable for the formation of hybridization complex; and

b) detecting the hybridization complex, wherein the presence of the complex correlates with expression of the polynucleotide of Claim 1 in the biological sample.

4. An expression vector comprising the polynucleotide of Claim 1.

5. A host cell transformed with the expression vector of Claim 4.

6. A method for producing a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2, the method comprising the steps of:

a) culturing the host cell of Claim 5 under conditions suitable for the expression of the polypeptide; and

b) recovering the polypeptide from the host cell culture.

7. An antisense molecule comprising the nucleic acid sequence complementary to at least a portion of the polynucleotide of Claim 1.

8. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the antisense molecule of Claim 7 and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

9. A method of treating a subject with a condition or disease involving the altered expression of purinergic P_{2U} receptor comprising administering an effective amount of the pharmaceutical composition of Claim 8 to the subject.

10. A purified polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

11. An agonist of the polypeptide of Claim 10.

12. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the agonist of Claim 11 and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

13. A method of treating a subject with a condition or disease associated with the altered expression of human purinergic P_{2U} receptor comprising administering an effective amount of the pharmaceutical composition of Claim 12 to the subject.

14. An inhibitor of the polypeptide of Claim 10.

15. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the inhibitor of Claim 14 and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

16. A method of treating a subject with a condition or disease associated with the altered expression of human purinergic P_{2U} receptor comprising administering an effective amount of the pharmaceutical composition of Claim 15 to the subject.

17. An antibody specific for the purified polypeptide of Claim 10.

5 18. A diagnostic test for a condition or disease associated with the expression of the human purinergic P_{2U} receptor in a biological sample comprising the steps of:

a) combining the biological sample with the antibody of Claim 17, under conditions suitable for the antibody to bind the polypeptide and form an antibody:polypeptide complex; and

10 b) detecting the complex, wherein the presence of the complex correlates with the expression of the polypeptide in the biological sample.

19. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the antibody of Claim 17 and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

15 20. A method of treating a subject with a condition or disease associated with the altered expression of human purinergic P_{2U} receptor comprising administering an effective amount of the pharmaceutical composition of Claim 19 to the subject.

1/3

5' ATG GAA TGG GAC AAT GGC ACA GAC CAG GCT CTG GGC TTG CCA CCC ACC ACC TGT
 Met Glu Trp Asp Asn Gly Thr Asp Gln Ala Leu Gly Leu Pro Pro Thr Thr Cys

63 72 81 90 99 108
 GTC TAC CGC GAG AAC TTC AAG CAA CTG CTG CTC CCA CCT GTG TAT TCG GCG GTG
 Val Tyr Arg Glu Asn Phe Lys Gln Leu Leu Leu Pro Pro Val Tyr Ser Ala Val

117 126 135 144 153 162
 CTG GCG CCT GCC CTC CCG CTG AAC ATC TGT GTC ATT ACC CAG ATC TGC ACG TCC
 Leu Ala Pro Ala Leu Pro Leu Asn Ile Cys Val Ile Thr Gln Ile Cys Thr Ser

171 180 189 198 207 216
 CGC CGG GCC CTG ACC CGC ACG GCC GTG TAC ACC CTA AAC CTT GCT CTG CCT GAC
 Arg Arg Ala Leu Thr Arg Thr Ala Val Tyr Thr Leu Asn Leu Ala Leu Pro Asp

225 234 243 252 261 270
 CTG CTA TAT GCC TGC TCC CTG CCC CTG CTC ATC TAC AAC TAT GCC CAA GGT GAT
 Leu Leu Tyr Ala Cys Ser Leu Pro Leu Leu Ile Tyr Asn Tyr Ala Gln Gly Asp

279 288 297 306 315 324
 CAC TGG CCC TTT GGC GAC TTC GCC TGC CGC CTG GTC CGC TTC CTC TTC TAT GCC
 His Trp Pro Phe Gly Asp Phe Ala Cys Arg Leu Val Arg Phe Leu Phe Tyr Ala

333 342 351 360 369 378
 AAC CTG CAC GGG AGG ATC CTC TTC CTC ACC TGC ATC AGC TTC CAG CGC TAC CTG
 Asn Leu His Gly Arg Ile Leu Phe Leu Thr Cys Ile Ser Phe Gln Arg Tyr Leu

387 396 405 414 423 432
 GGC ATC TGC CAC CCG CTG GCC CCC TGG CAC AAA CGT GGG GGC CGC CGG GCT GCC
 Gly Ile Cys His Pro Leu Ala Pro Trp His Lys Arg Gly Gly Arg Arg Ala Ala

441 450 459 468 477 486
 TGG CTA GTG TGT GTA GCC GTG TGG CTG GCC GTG ACA ACC CAG TGC CTG CCC ACA
 Trp Leu Val Cys Val Ala Val Trp Leu Ala Val Thr Thr Gln Cys Leu Pro Thr

495 504 513 522 531 540
 GCC ATC TTC GCT GCC ACA GGC ATC CAG CGT AAC CGC ACT GTC TGT TAT GAC CTC
 Ala Ile Phe Ala Ala Thr Gly Ile Gln Arg Asn Arg Thr Val Cys Tyr Asp Leu

549 558 567 576 585 594
 AGC CCG CCT GCC CTG GCC ACC CAC TAT ATG CCC TAT GGG ATG GCT CTC ACT GTC
 Ser Pro Pro Ala Leu Ala Thr His Tyr Met Pro Tyr Gly Met Ala Leu Thr Val

603 612 621 630 639 648
 ATC GGC TTC CTG CTG CCC TTT GCT GCC CTG CTG GCC TGC TAC TGT CTC CTG GCC
 Ile Gly Phe Leu Leu Pro Phe Ala Ala Leu Leu Ala Cys Tyr Cys Leu Leu Ala

← x42
 x15 →

FIGURE 1A

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657	666	675	684	693	702
TGC CGC CTG TGC CGC CAG GAT GGC CCG GCA GAG CCT GTG GCC CAG GAG CGG CGT					
Cys Arg Leu Cys Arg Gln Asp Gly Pro Ala Glu Pro Val Ala Gln Glu Arg Arg					
711	720	729	738	747	756
GGC AAG GCG GCC CGC ATG GCC GTG GTG GTG GCT GCT GTC TTT GGC ATC AGC TTC					
Gly Lys Ala Ala Arg Met Ala Val Val Val Ala Ala Val Phe Gly Ile Ser Phe					
765	774	783	792	801	810
CTG CCT TTT CAC ATC ACC AAG ACA GCC TAC CTG GCA GTG CGC TCG ACG CCG GGC					
Leu Pro Phe His Ile Thr Lys Thr Ala Tyr Leu Ala Val Arg Ser Thr Pro Gly					
819	828	837	846	855	864
GTC CCC TGC ACT GTA TTG GAG GCC TTT GCA GCG GCC TAC AAA GGC ACG CGG CCG					
Val Pro Cys Thr Val Leu Glu Ala Phe Ala Ala Ala Tyr Lys Gly Thr Arg Pro					
873	882	891	900	909	918
TTT GCC AGT GCC AAC AGC GTG CTG GAC CCC ATC CTC TTC TAC TTC ACC CAG AAG					
Phe Ala Ser Ala Asn Ser Val Leu Asp Pro Ile Leu Phe Tyr Phe Thr Gln Lys					
927	936	945	954	963	972
AAG TTC CGC CGG CGA CCA CAT GAG CTC CTA CAG AAA CTC ACA GAC AAA TGG CAG					
Lys Phe Arg Arg Arg Pro His Glu Leu Leu Gln Lys Leu Thr Asp Lys Trp Gln					
981					
AGG CAG GGT CGC 3'					
Arg Gln Gly Arg					

FIGURE 1B

3/3

1 ME - - - - W D N G T D - - - - O A L G L P P T T C V Y 179696
 1 MAAGLD S WNSTINGT WEGDE LGY - - - KCRF RNU09402
 21 RENFKQLLLPPVYS AVLAPALPLN ICVITO 179696
 28 NEDFKYV LLPVSYGVV CVLGLCLN VVALYI RNU09402
 51 ICTSRRALTRTAVYT LNLALPD LLYACSLP 179696
 58 FLCRLKTWNASTTYMFHLAVSDSLYAAASLP RNU09402
 81 LLIYN YAQGDHWPFGDFACRLVRFLFYANL 179696
 88 LLVY Y YAOGDHWP ESTVLCKLVRFLFYTNL RNU09402
 111 HGRILFLTCISFOR YLGICHPLAPWHKRG G 179696
 118 YCS ILFLTCISVHRSLGVLRPLHSL - RWGH RNU09402
 141 RRAAWLVCVAVWLAVTTOCLPTAIFAATGI 179696
 147 ARYAARRVAAV VWVLVLACQTPVLYEFVTTSV RNU09402
 171 QNRRTVCYDLSPPALATHYMPYGMALT VIG 179696
 177 RGT RITCHDTS DRELFSHFVAYSSVMLGLL RNU09402
 201 FLLPFAALLAC YCLLACRLCRODGP AEPVA 179696
 207 FAVPFESIILV CYVLMARRLLKPAYGTTGLP RNU09402
 231 QERRGKAARM AVVVA AVFGISFLPFHITKT 179696
 237 RAKR - KSVRTIALVLAVFALCFLPFHVTRT RNU09402
 261 AYLA VRSTPGVPCTVLEAFAAAYKGTRPFA 179696
 266 LYYSFRSL - DLSCHTLNAINMAYKITRPLA RNU09402
 291 SANSVLDPI LFYFTOKKERR - - - - - 179696
 295 SANSCLDPVLYFLAGQRLVR FARDAKPATE RNU09402
 311 - - - - - R P H E L L O K L T D K W 179696
 325 PTPSPQARRKLGLHRPN RTD TVRKDL S I S S RNU09402
 324 OROGR 179696
 355 DDSRR TESTPAGSETKDIRL RNU09402

Decoration 'Decoration #1': Box residues that match 179696 exactly.

FIGURE 2

PCT

WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION
International Bureau

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁶ : C12N 15/12, 15/11, C07K 14/705, C12Q 1/68, C12N 5/10, A61K 48/00, 38/17, G01N 33/50	A3	(11) International Publication Number: WO 96/38558 (43) International Publication Date: 5 December 1996 (05.12.96)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/US96/08481 (22) International Filing Date: 3 June 1996 (03.06.96) (30) Priority Data: 08/459,046 2 June 1995 (02.06.95) US (71) Applicant: INCYTE PHARMACEUTICALS, INC. [US/US]; 3174 Porter Drive, Palo Alto, CA 94304 (US). (72) Inventors: COLEMAN, Roger; 260 Mariposa No. 2, Mountain View, CA 94041 (US). AU-YOUNG, Janice; 1419 Kains Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94702 (US). STUART, Susan, G.; 1256 Birch Street, Montara, CA 94037 (US). (74) Agent: GLAISTER, Debra, J.; Incyte Pharmaceuticals, Inc., 3174 Porter Drive, Palo Alto, CA 94304 (US).		(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GE, HU, IL, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, UZ, VN, ARIPO patent (KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). Published <i>With international search report.</i> <i>Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the</i> <i>claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of</i> <i>amendments.</i> (88) Date of publication of the international search report: 23 January 1997 (23.01.97)

(54) Title: A HUMAN PURINERGIC P_{2U} RECEPTOR**(57) Abstract**

The present invention provides nucleotide and amino acid sequences that identify and encode a novel purinergic P_{2U} receptor (PNR) expressed in human placenta. The present invention also provides for antisense molecules to the nucleotide sequences which encode PNR, expression vectors for the production of purified PNR, antibodies capable of binding specifically to PNR, hybridization probes or oligonucleotides for the detection of PNR-encoding nucleotide sequences, genetically engineered host cells for the expression of PNR, and diagnostic tests based on PNR-encoding nucleic acid molecules or antibodies produced against the polypeptide PNR.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100 101 102 103 104 105 106 107 108 109 110 111 112 113 114 115 116 117 118 119 120 121 122 123 124 125 126 127 128 129 130 131 132 133 134 135 136 137 138 139 140 141 142 143 144 145 146 147 148 149 150 151 152 153 154 155 156 157 158 159 160 161 162 163 164 165 166 167 168 169 170 171 172 173 174 175 176 177 178 179 180 181 182 183 184 185 186 187 188 189 190 191 192 193 194 195 196 197 198 199 200 201 202 203 204 205 206 207 208 209 210 211 212 213 214 215 216 217 218 219 220 221 222 223 224 225 226 227 228 229 230 231 232 233 234 235 236 237 238 239 240 241 242 243 244 245 246 247 248 249 250 251 252 253 254 255 256 257 258 259 260 261 262 263 264 265 266 267 268 269 270 271 272 273 274 275 276 277 278 279 280 281 282 283 284 285 286 287 288 289 290 291 292 293 294 295 296 297 298 299 300 301 302 303 304 305 306 307 308 309 310 311 312 313 314 315 316 317 318 319 320 321 322 323 324 325 326 327 328 329 330 331 332 333 334 335 336 337 338 339 340 341 342 343 344 345 346 347 348 349 350 351 352 353 354 355 356 357 358 359 360 361 362 363 364 365 366 367 368 369 370 371 372 373 374 375 376 377 378 379 380 381 382 383 384 385 386 387 388 389 390 391 392 393 394 395 396 397 398 399 400 401 402 403 404 405 406 407 408 409 410 411 412 413 414 415 416 417 418 419 420 421 422 423 424 425 426 427 428 429 430 431 432 433 434 435 436 437 438 439 440 441 442 443 444 445 446 447 448 449 450 451 452 453 454 455 456 457 458 459 460 461 462 463 464 465 466 467 468 469 470 471 472 473 474 475 476 477 478 479 480 481 482 483 484 485 486 487 488 489 490 491 492 493 494 495 496 497 498 499 500 501 502 503 504 505 506 507 508 509 510 511 512 513 514 515 516 517 518 519 520 521 522 523 524 525 526 527 528 529 530 531 532 533 534 535 536 537 538 539 540 541 542 543 544 545 546 547 548 549 550 551 552 553 554 555 556 557 558 559 560 561 562 563 564 565 566 567 568 569 570 571 572 573 574 575 576 577 578 579 580 581 582 583 584 585 586 587 588 589 590 591 592 593 594 595 596 597 598 599 600 601 602 603 604 605 606 607 608 609 610 611 612 613 614 615 616 617 618 619 620 621 622 623 624 625 626 627 628 629 630 631 632 633 634 635 636 637 638 639 640 641 642 643 644 645 646 647 648 649 650 651 652 653 654 655 656 657 658 659 660 661 662 663 664 665 666 667 668 669 670 671 672 673 674 675 676 677 678 679 680 681 682 683 684 685 686 687 688 689 690 691 692 693 694 695 696 697 698 699 700 701 702 703 704 705 706 707 708 709 710 711 712 713 714 715 716 717 718 719 720 721 722 723 724 725 726 727 728 729 730 731 732 733 734 735 736 737 738 739 740 741 742 743 744 745 746 747 748 749 750 751 752 753 754 755 756 757 758 759 760 761 762 763 764 765 766 767 768 769 770 771 772 773 774 775 776 777 778 779 780 781 782 783 784 785 786 787 788 789 790 791 792 793 794 795 796 797 798 799 800 801 802 803 804 805 806 807 808 809 810 811 812 813 814 815 816 817 818 819 820 821 822 823 824 825 826 827 828 829 830 831 832 833 834 835 836 837 838 839 840 841 842 843 844 845 846 847 848 849 850 851 852 853 854 855 856 857 858 859 860 861 862 863 864 865 866 867 868 869 870 871 872 873 874 875 876 877 878 879 880 881 882 883 884 885 886 887 888 889 890 891 892 893 894 895 896 897 898 899 900 901 902 903 904 905 906 907 908 909 910 911 912 913 914 915 916 917 918 919 920 921 922 923 924 925 926 927 928 929 930 931 932 933 934 935 936 937 938 939 940 941 942 943 944 945 946 947 948 949 950 951 952 953 954 955 956 957 958 959 960 961 962 963 964 965 966 967 968 969 970 971 972 973 974 975 976 977 978 979 980 981 982 983 984 985 986 987 988 989 990 991 992 993 994 995 996 997 998 999 1000

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PC1/US 96/08481

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 6 C12N15/12 C12N15/11 C07K14/705 C12Q1/68 C12N5/10
A61K48/00 A61K38/17 G01N33/50

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 6 C07K A61K

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	JOURNAL OF BIOLOGICAL CHEMISTRY (MICROFILMS), vol. 270, 1994, MD US, pages 26152-26158, XP000611453 CHANG, K. ET AL.: "Molecular cloning and functional analysis of a novel P2 nucleotide receptor" see the whole document ---	1
X, P	EMBL EST, Accession no X97058, sequence reference g1296659, 03-MAY-96, Homo sapiens mRNA for P2Y6 gene XP002018661 see the whole document ---	1
	-/--	

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

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- *&* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

21 November 1996

Date of mailing of the international search report

06.12.96

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Chambonnet, F

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X, P	<p>WO, A, 96 05302 (TAKEDA CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES LTD ; HINUMA SHUJI (JP); HOSOYA MASAKI ()) 22 February 1996 see sequences 38 39 56 57 see claims</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-----</p>	1

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US 96/08481

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

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because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
Remark: Although claim(s) 9, 13, 16 and 20
is(are) directed to a method of treatment of the human/animal
body, the search has been carried out and based on the alleged
effects of the compound/composition.
2. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such
an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

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searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment
of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report
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4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is
restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

Information on patent family members

PC7/US 96/08481

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
WO-A-9605302	22-02-96	AU-A- 4426296	07-03-96